



# The Texas Compatriot

*Texas Society  
Sons of the American Revolution*



Spring 2011 Issue

15 May 2011



TXSSAR President  
William Marrs.

I wish to thank Jim Jones for his excellent leadership this past year. I hope to do as well.

I would like to begin by talking about my SAR Genealogy. When I joined the Texas SAR in June of 1990, James Westlake was President General, David Peterson was State President, and Joe M. Hill was State Secretary. My friend Dr. David Yeilding became State President in 1992 and I think he prevailed on me to attend a BOM in Waco. That was probably the first time for me. I became familiar with names like Clovis Brakebill, Del Fowler, Billy Hightower, Bill Floyd, C. R. Harrington, and Ross Shipman. There are many more who greeted me and encouraged me to become involved. I will never forget the help I received as a new State Genealogist from the *Original* Tom M. Green. He took the time to help me become effective in my job. The first time Clovis Brakebill called me by name, I knew I was no longer the new guy.

Jim Robertson comes to mind. When he was active, he was the guy who sat in the bar or in the lobby and snagged innocent, unsuspecting newcomers and put them to work. Jim could not make it tonight. I wish Corinne and him well.

My point is simply this. All these men and many others to the present day contributed and still contribute to my understanding and appreciation of our Society. They do that by their friendship and by sharing their unique special talents and life experiences. We have the same obligation to our newest members.

As most of you know, I served as State Genealogist for three years and as Corresponding and State Secretary for ten or so years with two years off in 2005 and 2006 for good behavior.

I mention this because it affects my approach to the one short year I have to make an impact on the society. I am oriented to the mechanics of our organization. I like to make things work efficiently. The challenge is doing it in big old Texas and with volunteers.

Every State President is presented with a host of things they can work on and they usually end up concentrating on one or two things that seem to be most important at the time and that interest a particular president.

Things I would like to work on:

I would like to have some electronic meetings using some of the newly available commercial systems on the market like *Go to Meeting*. In this day of escalating gasoline prices, it seems to make sense.

It has been five or more years since we took a look at our senior officer job descriptions to make sure we have balanced the work currently being done and that we have captured functions that have changed or newly created. Our continued innovation in the area of internet services comes to mind. I will shortly appoint a special committee to review officers' duties. The end result may be a re-shuffle of tasks or even the addition of a position to handle some IT and communication functions.

I would like to improve communications with our members. We decided some time ago to budget for a limited printing of the *Compatriot*, our newsletter, and to publish more frequently on our award winning web site. My fellow officers know I was reluctant to stop the mailing of a print version. However, I come to accept that most of our members did not care. However, I believe that we as leaders need to maintain a connection and that link has to be our web site with email or even text messaging, drawing attention to our news and information.

I hope the general review of functions I outlined above results in a new position that is dedicated to member communication. One part of member communication is maintenance of our email system, which, by the way, is a major job. Keeping up with our guys changing their email addresses and not telling us requires an amazing effort. Now, this function lies with the State Secretary. I see a new position, perhaps called Communication Secretary or As-

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Upcoming Events

*NSSAR Congress—Winston-Salem  
8-13 July 2011*

*So Central Dist Mtg.—Overland  
Park, KS  
26-27 Aug 2011*

*Fall Leadership, Louisville, KY  
30-Sep—1 Oct 2011*

*TXSSAR BOM—Houston  
29-31 July 2011*

*TXSSAR BOM—Galveston  
29-30 Oct 2011*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting	2-8
National	10, 15
Chapter Activities	8-9, 14
Color Guard	11-13
Veterans	14
Medals & Awards*	On-line

\* This supplement with the Awards given by the Awards VP and also by the TXSSAR President during the March Convention is an on-line supplement only.

(Continued from page 1)

sistant State Secretary that handles communications with the membership. He would maintain the DADA Email addresses, go after members to obtain an email address and be responsible for maintaining the print mail list for the Compatriot Magazine and other letters we want to get to the group of members who do not have email or a computer. The review of functions may result in other duties. Finally, a person would be in a good position to move up to the State Secretary position after serving in this way.

If we are able to successfully move to electronic meetings, we might consider changing our format from three meetings a

year to two - a Conference in January and a physical BOM in August after the National Congress. Our Bylaws support electronic meetings so the need for two physical BOMs may not exist except for social purposes and as expensive as they are, I believe it is time to seriously consider my proposal.

I look forward to accomplishing these goals during my term with the full cooperation of all the officers and members of TXSSAR

I look forward to beginning to work of my term with the full cooperation of all the officers and members of TXSSAR.

## TXSSAR—116th Annual Convention—Irving, Texas—March 25 through 27, 2011

The 116th Convention was hosted by the Dallas Chapter and David Temple of that chapter coordinated the activities. It was reported that almost 90 members with their guests attended functions. And to listen to attendees one can be assured a good time was had by all. The Youth Awards Luncheon was attended by 140 members and guests. There were 160 present for the Saturday Banquet and officer installation.

During the banquet President Jim T. Jones thanked all of the compatriots who supported him during his term and awarded five meritorious service medals. He was made an Admiral in the Texas Navy and First Lady Dianne was made a “Yellow Rose of Texas.” President Jones awarded

Dianne with a Silver Service Medal.

President General David Sympson spoke of service to our veterans, recording information from our WWII veterans for posterity and, of course, the progress on the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage.

William Marrs and his new slate of officers was installed by President David Sympson. Jim Jones and his lady Dianne presented gifts to William and Sylvia. One a traditional guide book for Texas.

The business meetings were handled with dispatch. The

(Continued on page 3)

<b>TXSSAR Officers 2011 - 2012</b>			
<b>President</b>	William M. Marrs	<b>Vice President, CM&amp;A</b>	Russell Dart
<b>President-Elect</b>	Robert M. Clark	<b>Vice President, District 1</b>	William H. Holcombe, Jr.
<b>Immediate Past-President</b>	James T. Jones, Jr.	<b>Vice President, District 2</b>	William G. Harper
<b>Secretary</b>	Robert S. Cohen	<b>Vice President, District 3</b>	Patrick Hollis
<b>Staff Secretary</b>	Stephen Rohrbough	<b>Vice President, District 4</b>	Ronald J. Walcik
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Beard	<b>Vice President, District 5</b>	James Alderman
<b>Registrar (Coastal Group)</b>	Gerald W. Irion	<b>Vice President, District 6</b>	Harmon L. Adair, Jr.
<b>Registrar (Inland Group)</b>	Michael J. Radcliff	<b>Vice President, District 7</b>	George W. Dersheimer
<b>Chancellor</b>	Henry J. Voegtle, III	<b>Vice President, District 8</b>	John K. Thompson
<b>Chaplain</b>	James C. Taylor	<b>Vice President, District 9</b>	Arthur G. Munford
<b>Historian</b>	Larry Stevens	<b>Vice President, District 10</b>	Michael J. Everheart
<b>President, Council of Chapter Presidents</b>	Arthur Munford	<b>Vice President, District 11</b>	Peter H. Rowley
<b>Trustee</b>	Henry Fife	<b>Editor, Compatriot</b>	Larry Stevens/Charles Baker
<b>Alternate Trustee</b>	W. M. Marrs	<b>Webmaster</b>	Ray Cox

## TXSSAR—116th Annual Convention—Irving, Texas—March 25 through 27, 2011

significant items addressed during this meeting were as follows:

- The definition of Emeritus Membership in the State Constitution was revised and approved by membership.
- There was an election to confirm the office of District 3 Vice President. Patrick Hollis of the William Hightower Chapter was elected to fill this office.

The TXSSAR website will contain the full minutes of this meeting. This report is just a summary of highlights.

*Pictured at right the Marrs Family Table at the Saturday Night Banquet with First Lady Sylvia being recognized.*



The Marrs Family Table at the Saturday Banquet



*Pictured above with Mr. Perot: Charles Luna, Robert Clark, Joe Dooley, H. Ross Perot, Peter Gobel, Ed Butler, James Jones, Larry Stevens*

On 26 March 2011, H. Ross Perot was awarded the Gold Good Citizenship Medal during the Youth Awards Luncheon at the TXSSAR 2011 Annual Convention. Prior to his presenting the award, TXSSAR President James T. Jones, Jr. read the application for this nomination to the luncheon participants.

Mr. Perot addressed the membership and the youth present for the awards ceremony. His respect and involvement in scouting was highlighted in his oration.

Mr. Perot has been a long standing friend of military personnel, particularly those wounded in the line of duty. Some of his contributions are:

- When Viet Nam POW Capt. Jerry Singleton was released in 1973 Mr. Perot, his wife and son were the first to greet him.
- In 1973 he organized a parade in San Francisco honoring the Son Tay prison rescue in North Vietnam and in 1991 in Dallas honoring Desert Storm vets.
- After the Vietnam War, Mr. Perot *personally* helped scores of returning veterans return to daily life.
- In the early 1990's Persian Gulf veterans were suffering from a debilitating illness that the military could not diagnose and refused to treat. Mr. Perot footed the bill for the expensive investigation by doctors at the UTMC to learn about the disease and to study ways to treat it. Mr. Perot flew those suffering from ALS to Dallas for treatment.
- Arranged for a statue of retiring USAF Gen. Robinson "Robby" Riser, North Vietnam POW, at the Air Force Academy in 2001.



Pictured above: James T. Jones, William Marrs and David Sympson, NSSAR President General. Pictured at right: James T. Jones, Jr. affixes the TXSSAR President's Ribbon.



Allan Henshaw was presented the SAR Silver Distinguished Service Medal by Texas President James T. Jones Jr. for his ongoing technical contributions to both the Texas and the National Society.

Allan has held several officer positions at state and chapter level, including District 7 VP and District 8 VP, and chapter president. He is a member of the Paul Carrington Chapter of Houston. Allan was the first recipient of the National Society Gold Distinguished Service Medal awarded in 1998 for his IT work for NSSAR.



### On the Lighter Side

Tom Whitelock came out of retirement to roast another pair of TXSSAR presidents. Giving Jones a treasure chest of his own currency and Bill M&M's with his photo. At the Sunday morning session, all TXSSAR presidents formerly honored by Tom returned the favor. George West presented "gifts" to Tom and everyone was certain he could make good use of them. Some remarked that they should be given to the TXSSAR President!



## Saturday Banquet --State Convention-Houston — March 2011

The Patriot Medal is the highest award a state society can bestow on a member. It represents a long history of personal commitment to the organization at the local, state and often national level. Each state is limited in the number of medals which can be awarded in one year. The organization was proud to announce this years awardees. They are men who have sacrificed their time and money to promote SAR.

### Patriot Medal Awardees for 2011

*Pictured right:*

- **James Mitchell** (PineyWoods Chapter #51),
- **Stephen Lee** (Capt. Wm Barron Chapter #25),
- **Peter McLellan** (McKinney #63),
- **James Taylor** (San Antonio #4)
- **Dan Reed** (Denton #23)



TXSSAR President James Jones presents First Lady Dianne with the Texas Silver Service Medal and Certificate.



Above: NSSAR Color Guard Commander Joe Dooley (left) and TXSSAR Color Guard Commander Don Stone (right) presented James Mitchell, Larry Stevens and James T. Jones with the Silver Color Guard Medal & Certificate for three years of service at NSSAR events (3/year).



### Youth Awards from the Luncheon 26th March in Irving.

The photos on the previous page feature the winners of this years youth awards.

The Youth Awards competition this year was incredible. The chapters who sponsored these youth are to be commended for recognizing and promoting such talent! The winners and participants from this year are pictured on the previous page. They are identified from top to bottom, left to right as follows:

**JROTC Enhanced Award Winner:** Cadet Chris Lamoureux, Junior, Robert G. Cole High School, San Antonio, Texas Sponsoring Chapter: San Antonio Chapter # 4, District # 3

**The TXSSAR C. A. R. Scholarship Essay Award :** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mr. Nathaniel Ames, Freshman, Cornell University, NY, Three Forks Trinity Society – TSCAR Sponsoring Chapter: Dallas Chapter # 2, District # 6 (also 1st in 2009) He is pictured with TXSSAR President Jones & his father.

**Robert Ritchie Oration Awards for Joseph Rumbaugh Contest:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Ms. Sophia Merie Smithe, Junior, Home Schooled; Sponsoring Chapter: Hill Country Chapter #31, District # 3
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mr. Michael Richard McBride, Plano Senior High School; Sponsoring Chapter: Plano Chapter #37, District # 6
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ms. Lydia Marie Olsen, Junior, Lindale High School; Sponsoring Chapter: Capt William Barron Chapter #25, District #10
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Mr. Gibson Duncan Hatch, Sophomore, Hays High School; Sponsoring Chapter: Patrick Henry Chapter #11, District # 4
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Mr. Thomas Leigh Dunham, Junior, Sweeney High School; Sponsoring Chapter: Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, District # 7

(pictured on page 6: Thomas Dunham; Gibson Hatch, Lydia Olsen, Michael McBride and Sophia Smithe)

**Outstanding American History Teacher Award:**

Winner: Jan Holland, Colleyville, TX ; Sponsoring Chapter: Dallas Chapter # 2, District # 6 (She is pictured with TXSSAR President Jones, Bob Northcraft and Russell Dart)

**The Eagle Scout Scholarship Award:** Winner: Eagle Scout Roland Michael Salatino; Sponsoring Chapter: San Antonio Chapter # 4, District #3. (His essay "An Evaluation of Weapons and Tactics in the Battle of Kings Mountain" is posted on the TXSSAR website.)

**The James M. Looney Elementary School Poster Contest Award (5 Certificates):** Pictured below 1st place winning poster by Daylon Franklin who attends R.C. Burleson Elementary and was sponsored by the Dallas Chapter.



At the Saturday Night Banquet Compatriot Captain Bruce Dareing, of the Denton Chapter, was presented the Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate for wounds sustained in Iraq during the U.S. War on Terrorism. He is stationed at Ft. Hood.

*Pictured l-r: James T. Jones, David Sympson, PG, Dan Reed, Compatriot Captain Dareing, and James Johnson*

## TXSSAR Presents UNT Archives Awards



*Pictured above: Larry Stevens, Edward Hoyenski, Jennifer Sheehan, Michelle Mears and William Marrs*

The Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution (TXSSAR), a lineage society based on the tenets of education, genealogy and patriotism, presented Archives Awards to the University of North Texas Libraries and Library staff at 2 P.M. Friday, April 15, 2011. The event was held in the Forum of the Willis Library on the University of North Texas campus in Denton, Texas.

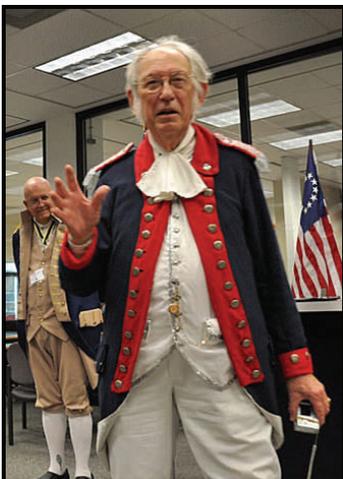
Larry Stevens, TXSSAR Historian, introduced William Marrs (UNT Class of '63), President of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, who presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to the UNT Libraries for the excellent manner in which the TXSSAR Archives have been maintained and preserved for future generations. The certificate was accepted by Michelle Mears, University Archivist.

State Society Silver Service Medals were presented to Jennifer Sheehan, Curator of the Rare Book Room and Texana Collections, and Edward Hoyenski, Former Assistant Curator for their outstanding work with the TXSSAR Archives. The Texas Society Archives have been part of the "Texana Collections" since 2003. The TXSSAR Color Guard consisting of John Greer,

Robert Hall, William Marrs, Dan Reed, Howard Roach, Don Seilert, Tom Whitelock and Jim Johnson also participated in the event. The SAR wished to thank UNT events coordinator Kristin Boyett for coordinating the ceremony.

The TXSSAR Archives contains important historical and genealogical documents as well as material relating to the Soci-

ety. Of historical importance in the collection are proclamations signed by Preston Smith and George W. Bush (43<sup>rd</sup> U.S. President), and a photograph signed by Mark White, all of whom are former Texas Governors. Also included is a book published in 1840 entitled Monuments to George Washington's Patriotism, which is a facsimile of the account book in which he recorded his expenses during the American Revolution.



*Pictured above: former TXSSAR Historian Jim Johnson who is responsible for this wonderful partnership with UNT. He and Dr. Hoyenski forged the arrangements for the SAR Archives.*

*Pictured at right: Jim Johnson, Robert Hall, Dan Reed, Don Seilert, Howard Roach, John Greer and Tom Whitelock*





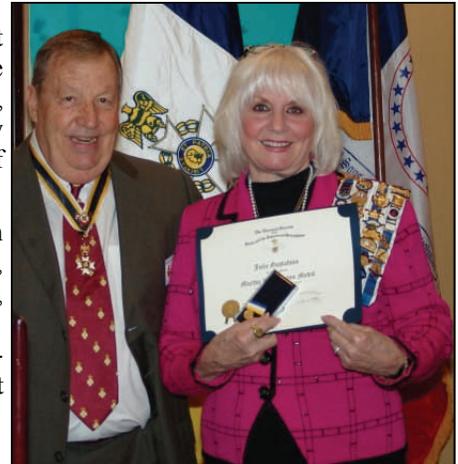
**Greenville:** A Genealogy Workshop was held at the Greenville Public Library, April 30, 2011. There were 25 in attendance. Sylvia Rodriguez presented information on how to search for your ancestors and requirements for admission into the DAR and the SAR. These types of workshops have proven very effective in recruiting new members and getting them started on the right foot. Sylvia is the Vice President of the Hunt County Genealogy Society and the Genealogy Librarian at the Greenville Public Library. Linda and Wendell Edwards provided refreshments for the affair.

*Pictured at left: John Greer, VP of Amb. Fletcher Warren Chapter, Paul Fisk, Registrar and organizer of Workshop, Sylvia Rodriguez, VP of Hunt County Genealogy Society and Genealogy Librarian, Greenville Public Library.*

**Athens:** The SAR Texas Society president, James T. Jones, Jr. presented the program at the January meeting and inducted the Athens Chapter officers. His emphasis was on the important goals that the 48 Texas chapters should be focusing on, namely membership, youth projects and public service recognition. He mentioned that the new national society library in Louisville, KY had been constructed and that the museum is in the process of completion.

Elected chapter officers for 2011, inducted by Jones, were Art Hall, president, Adron Neill, vice president and Sam Whitten, secretary/treasurer. Officers appointed by Hall, who is also chapter registrar, are Johnny Goforth, chaplain, David Cason, sgt. at arms, Harry Fife, SAR advisor/liaison and Wayne Stafford, photographer/webmaster. NSDAR member Julie Gustafson was presented the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate (pictured right) for her service to the chapter by R.T. Gustafson, immediate past chapter president.

*Pictured of Induction L-R: James T. Jones Jr., Art Hall, Adron Neill, and Sam Whitten.*



**J.R.O.T.C.** — The end of the school year marks the time that the Bronze JROTC Medals and Certificates are presented nationally. TXSSAR chapters award around 400 medals and certificates each year to deserving young men and women. This year the PineyWoods chapter will have presented 24 medals and awards. Pictured above Larry Stevens presenting a young cadet the award at Westfield High School. His instructor Sgt. Fields is also pictured.



**Paris:** On the 21st of April James T. Jones, Jr., completed the last act of his term. After rescheduling a trip to Paris several times he was at last able to meet with the Red River Chapter.

Jim Jones delivered a speech on one of his patriot ancestors. Pictured at left Red River President Dr. Geoffrey Grubbs presenting Compatriot Jones with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Also in attendance were Peter Rowley and Sandi Craig, Peter is the District 11 VP, TXSSAR Historian Larry Stevens and wife Barbara, Dianne Jones, Mike Everheart and wife June. Mike and Larry are also members of this chapter.

Mike Everheart presented Larry Stevens with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as editor of the Texas Compatriot.

**Commerce:** March 10, 2011 Tom Green (Alexander Hodge Chapter) assisted by John Greer, Wendell and Linda Edwards (Am. Fletcher Warren Chapter) presented a program on American Flags to about 125 4th and 5th grade

students at the A. C. Williams Commerce Elementary School (pictured left). They also presented programs to the Greenville Christian School and the Como-Picton School in March. *See photo below.*



**Houston:** At the Houston Scout Fair in April SAR passed out flyers on the SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship and collected names of those interested in pursuing SAR membership. These events have been successful in contacting potential members and also for recruiting scouts for our scholarship programs.

In the picture with a Boy Scout are from left to right, Compatriot Steve Cannon of the Freedom Chapter - Conroe/The Woodlands, Compatriot Floyd Guest of the Paul Carrington Chapter - Houston, and TXSSAR District 8 VP John Kenton Thompson.





**Laredo Feb 19, 2011:** The National George Washington Parade was well attended again this year with over 400,000 on lookers lining the streets for over 3 ½ miles. PG David Sympson and wife Eveyln led the NSSAR Color Guard before the reviewing stand. There were 43 SAR members, most in uniform, 7 ladies in colonial dress and at least 6 CAR members from Laredo. The SAR carried the US and Texas Flags at the annual Bridge Ceremony earlier in the morning where Laredo and Nuevo Laredo city officials shook hands.

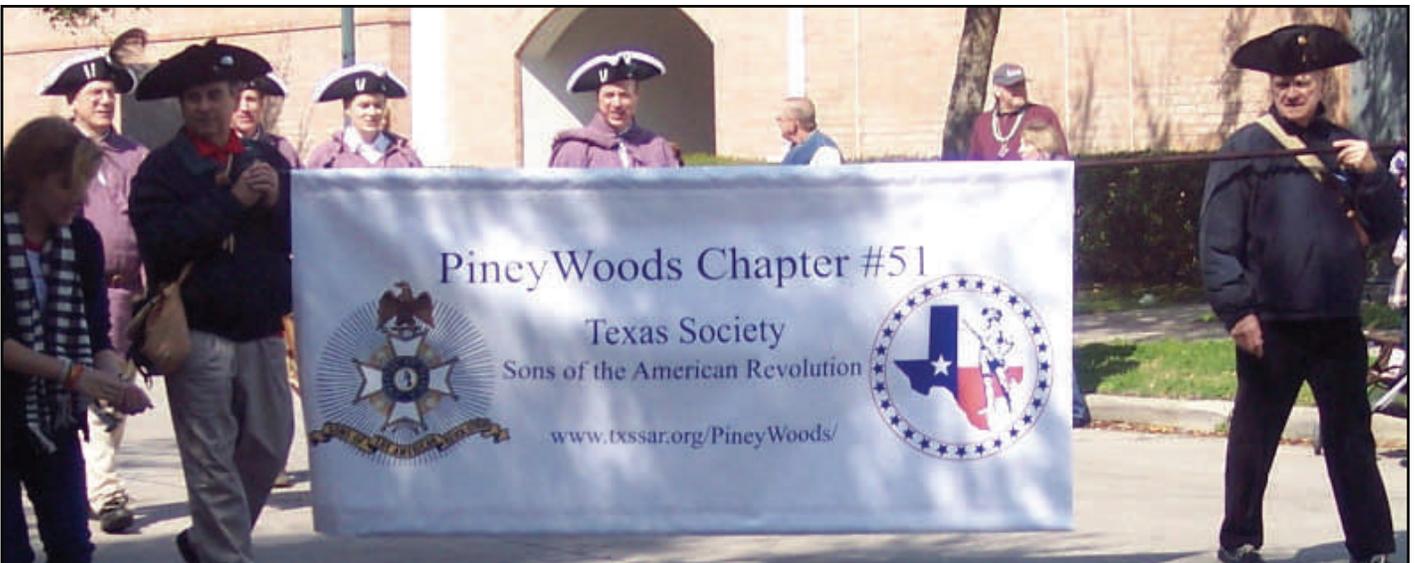
Pictured Below: Back Row L to R: *Jack Manning (NH), Sam Powell (NC), John Thompson, James Taylor, Ray Cox, Mike Radcliff, John Lyons (AZ), Stephen Tanner, Carl Hill, Tom Houston.* Middle Row: *Frank Rohrbough, Art Munford, Albert Niemeyer (AZ), Marvin Morgan, James Jones TXSSAR President., First Lady Eveyln Sympson (KY), President General David Sympson (KY), PPG Ed Butler, Tom Green, Lindsey Brock (FL), John Niemeyer (AZ), Louis Ramirez,* Front Row: *Barbara Stevens, Larry Stevens, Jim Mitchell, Stephen Rohrbough, Campbell & Peter Baron, Dianne Jones.*





*Pictured above: Stephen Tanner, James Mitchell, Ray Cox, Jay Kuykendall, TXSSAR President James T. Jones, Jr., Dianne Jones, John K. Thompson, Joe Allen Thompson and Thomas Green.*

**Huntsville:** The Captain John M. McAdams Chapter hosted a rededication ceremony for the TXSSAR Bicentennial Patriots Plaque located at the Walker Co. Courthouse in Huntsville on April 9, 2011. This plaque was originally dedicated in September 1987 and listed all known Patriots of the American Revolution who were buried in Texas. Veterans of all military actions of the United States were honored along with the Revolutionary War Patriots named on the plaque. Many attendees wore colonial dress or military uniforms. A complimentary lunch was served after the ceremony at the Walker Co. Storm Shelter and Convention Center.



*Pictured above: Ray Cox, James Mitchell, members of Lord Sterling Fife & Drum, in purple, and Pete Lenex.*

**Kingwood:** Members from the Bernardo de Galvez, Freedom and Robert Rankin chapters joined the PineyWoods chapter of Kingwood in the Annual Mardi Gras parade. The parade offered the PineyWoods chapter the first opportunity to use their new parade sign. Plans are to use this banner to promote SAR at many of the activities of the chapter.

**Dallas:** Members of the Dallas area color guard turned out to honor two of our finest. Maj. Robert Leon Tucci and Col. James Eugene Dennany were buried together 14 January 2011 at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery – more than 41 years after they were shot down in combat over Laos during the Viet Nam War. Both men were declared MIA after their F-4 Phantom was shot down on the Ho Chi Minh Trail on 12 November 1969. The flyover at the cemetery included three F-16s and a vintage F-4 in tribute to their service.



Tucci's father died always hoping his son's fate would be discovered, his mother, Jean Tucci of Austin, attended the services. Tucci and Dennany were both natives of Michigan, but each established Texas roots through military ties. Tucci, a 27-year-old pilot, was born in Detroit. But he grew up in Fort Worth and Del Valley, near Austin, where his father, an Air Force pilot, was stationed. His wife Sharon Tucci, who attended the ceremony lives in Benbrook.

Dennany was the co-pilot and weapons systems. Dennany married Emily Hon of Brownsville, while he was training in Harlingen, Texas. The couple had seven children. Emily Dennany died in 2002. He is survived by a son and four daughters, 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, all live in the Brownsville area.



*Pictured left: Drake Peddie, Dan Reed, John Greer, Don Seilert, Chuck Sprague, Bob Flag, and Jim Johnson*

Members of the TXSSAR Color Guard and DAR participated in a special service at the War Memorial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth. The service honored Cpl Frank Buckles, the last of the WWI "Doughboy" veterans. Cpl Buckles celebrated his 110 birthday in February of 2011. He was a member of the Gen. Adam Stephen Chapter, SAR, WV. He celebrated his 75th SAR anniversary in 2010. As of this year he had the fifth-longest SAR active service. Wreaths were laid by the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard DAR and SAR. The Liberty Bell was rung, and Compatriots Bob Northcraft and David Hall spoke.

*TXSSAR Color Guard and DAR pictured at right at the WWI Memorial.*



## Service to Veterans Column

This is the first of many articles that will be written to tell what members and Chapters are doing at the Chapter level and in their community in service to veterans. These activities include services to veterans, publications donated, dollars donated to the VA Volunteer Services Office (monies go to help veterans with their personal needs while receiving care in the VA hospital or nursing homes), special observances such as Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day, visitations and outings with veterans and Veterans Funerals to name a few.

The USS Stark Award is the National Societies' way of recognizing service to veterans through activities with the Veterans Affairs Health Care System (VAHCS) that provides care to veterans across the country. The local VA Veterans Service (VAVS) Office at each location records and documents the number of SAR volunteers and their hours of service to the community. We had 15 Chapters submit a Stark Report for 2010 activities resulting in 100,600 points being reported to NSSAR – the second highest total ever reported by the Texas Society.

As a result, Chairman Lyman Brenner, Chairman of the NSSAR Veterans Committee, notified President Bill Marrs on April 8<sup>th</sup> that the Texas Society's Stark Award Winner for Chapter Size 100-199 is the San Antonio Chapter, while the Dallas Chapter, because it was last year's winner, receives honorable mention in the Chapter Size 200+. Chairman Brenner also announced that for the second year in a row, Texas has the Westmoreland Winner. This year's winner was James Taylor of the San Antonio Chapter.

In Compatriot Taylor's nomination letter for this Award – the highest Award for service to veterans for a member of SAR - it was noted that "as a Retired US Army Chaplain, Reverend Taylor has dedicated much of his time to veterans praying for their spiritual and physical healing, especially those suffering from the wounds of current wars. This past year, Rev. Taylor made over 1671 visits and traveled over 13,500 miles to visit and serve veterans in VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes or in their

homes. He personally conducted 46 veterans' funerals during 2010 and personally conducted 8 outings for over 450 veterans to local restaurants and Dinner Theaters in the San Antonio area."

The Awards will be presented in July at the National Convention in Winston-Salem, NC.

As noted by NSSAR's Chairman of the Veterans Committee Lyman Brenner in the announcement of this year's Award Recipients for 2011, NSSAR recognizes the performance of all reporting chapters and state societies who submit a USS Stark Award Report, but only validates reported services from reports received from the VA's central offices in Washington, D.C.

NSSAR reports that only 5 TXSSAR Chapters have a Representative and/or a Deputy Representative officially designated by the NSSAR and the local VA Volunteer Service Office. Currently, the only certified representatives of NSSAR are appointed at the VA Health Care Systems located at Bonham-North Texas, Dallas-North Texas, Kerrville-South Texas, San Antonio-South Texas and Texas Valley Coastal Bend. While other volunteers may serve at the VA facilities, they are not "representatives of NSSAR". For more information on being a certified representative, contact me at [frankr@gvvc.com](mailto:frankr@gvvc.com).

Remember that President-General David Sympson's Program "Honoring the Greatest Generation" still needs your help. If you have any member of SAR who served in World War II, please help them complete the SAR World War II Veterans Survey that is available on the NSSAR Webpage at <http://www.sar.org/News/Honoring-Greatest-Generation> or on page 28 of the Summer Issue of The SAR Magazine.

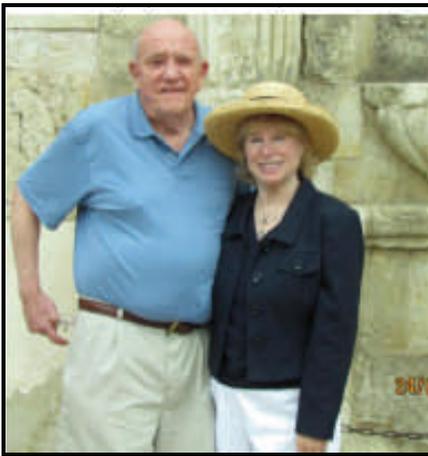
In following issues of the Newsletter, we will address what Chapters are doing to recognize veterans for their past service and to those currently serving today.

**Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Chair Veteran Committee**

February 14, 2011: John Greer, Wendell and Linda Edwards sorted and distributed Valentines at the Sam Rayburn Memorial VA center in Bonham. They are pictured with other members of Service organizations (VFW, ladies auxiliary VFW). Picture was furnished by Tina McDaniel VAVS SRMVA.

Compatriots and Chapters are urged to think of our veterans during holidays when the time can be lonely without company. But remember, anytime is a good time to recognize their patriotism and sacrifice for the life we enjoy.





President General David Sympton and wife Evelyn visited three distinct Texas areas during his term. The first visit was to attend the George Washington Parade in Laredo in February (they participated in Colonial dress.) In March they were hosted by past President General Ed Butler and wife Robin. They attended a meeting of the San Antonio and Boerne chapters during this visit. For two days the Butlers gave them a whirlwind tour of Texas including the San Antonio River Walk, Spanish Governor's Palace, and Alamo, and a Czech dinner in Boerne. They headed off to the TXSSAR Convention in Irving stopping at Luckenbach (of Willie Nelson fame), Fredericksburg, the LBJ Ranch in Johnson City, Hico for pie, and a What-a-Burger in Cleburne. The trip ended in Dallas where President General Sympton was able to watch his Kentucky basketball team win its game in the Sweet Sixteen. Judge Butler has prepared a wonderful memory book of the Sympton's Texas Travels which will be posted on the TXSSAR website as an special edition of the Compatriot for all to enjoy. *They are pictured at left outside the Alamo Shrine.*

## Wanted ExxonMobil Employees & Retirees

Did you realize that if you work or are retired from ExxonMobil that your volunteer hours can actually benefit TXSSAR? ExxonMobil has a program, their Volunteer Involvement Program, which rewards the employee for volunteer hours spent in community activities. For every 20+ volunteer SAR hours each quarter the company will donate \$500 The Patriot Fund qualifies for these donations.

If you would like more details on this program and how to take advantage of this wonderful benefit please contact TXSSAR Treasurer John Beard.

## Does your company match donations?

This may be something you could check out. Some companies are specific in the types of charities they match. For example, Shell will match funds for Educational programs. It may be worth while to see if the scholarship programs sponsored by SAR would meet these guidelines. Do we have a Shell retiree who knows whether the company would match donations to the Patriot Fund.

What about other local companies? We know that WalMart has been very helpful to local chapters by donating money and poster supplies.

Please contact Treasurer John Beard if you have any information on programs that can assist in our Patriot Fund.



Overall size 67" x 80"

## Ladies' Fundraiser

The latest fundraiser for the 2011-2013 term is a patriotic quilt, pictured left. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Sue Lenes (contact information on website).

Tickets are one for \$2 or three for \$5. Please make all checks to LATXSSAR .

This fundraiser is conducted to support the TXSSAR Patriot Funds expenses for youth programs. Please help us raise funds for this worthy cause.

Check the LATXSSAR webpage for hand-outs, donation forms etc.

<http://www.txssar.org/LA/proj-11.htm>

Address Service Requested

Page: 16

***From the Editor:***

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Compatriot Editor for the past four years. I came into the position without ever having done a newsletter. The help and cooperation I received from individuals and chapters has enriched my SAR experience. I could not have had more fun doing this. I want to recognize people like Willie Walker who took so many good photos that the early editions just wrote themselves. He is missed at every gathering. I also wish to thank other contributors like Vic Smith, Tom Whitelock, Wendell Edwards, Dan Reed, Drake Peddie, Sam Whitten, Mike Everheart, Pete Lenex, Don Pugh and so many others too numerous to name. I, at times, robbed shamelessly from chapter websites, but did so in an attempt to let everyone know what a great job chapters out there are doing to promote the goals of SAR in their chapters and communities. This experience has made me very proud of the activities of SAR in Texas.

While I will miss the opportunity to correspond with members and chapters about activities, I know that the incoming editor Charles Baker, of the Dallas Chapter, will do an outstanding job. He has edited the

Dallas Chapter newsletter for years and it is a wonderful example of what a newsletter should be. I ask that you send all news and articles to him at the address below.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve TXSSAR.

*Larry Stevens*

**CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION TO THE  
COMPATRIOT**

Deadlines for submission

FALL: Oct 15, 2011  
WINTER: Jan 15, 2012  
SPRING: May 10, 2012

All Chapters should put the following two addresses on their newsletter mailing distribution list:

Charles Baker, Compatriot Editor  
8600 Skyline Drive #1005  
Dallas, TX 75243-4167  
hc\_baker@sbcglobal.net  
Curator

TXSSAR Rare Book & Texana Collections  
University of North Texas Libraries  
P.O. Box 305190  
Denton, TX 76203  
c/o Jennifer Sheehan, Archivist  
Archive requests printed copies of newsletters.

**PATRIOTS FUND**

Compatriots are reminded that donations to the Patriots Fund in any amount are always welcome and are tax deductible as allowed for at 501(c)(3) organization. Remember that this fund supports all of our youth programs and contests. This includes the following: Knight Essay, Poster, CAR Essay, Eagle Scout, Oration, Junior ROTC and the American History Teacher Awards.

Individuals who give \$500 to the Patriots Fund receive the Alexander Hamilton lapel pin. Individuals donating \$1,000 will earn the Alexander Hamilton Medal. Recognition will be given at the Annual Meeting in March.

There is a new form for the submission of Patriot Fund Donations. It can be found at the following location on the web: [www.txssar.org/Donations.pdf](http://www.txssar.org/Donations.pdf)

Please send your contributions, the completed with checks made out to "TXSSAR Patriot Fund".

**John Beard**  
**P. O. Box 5419**  
**Kingwood, TX 77345-5419**